

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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January 13, 1975 **RICHMOND** Jesse C. Fletcher, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151 75-06

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1975 SBC Set For Miami
 Beach Convention Center

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--The agenda for the 118th session of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, here June 10-12, will center around a theme of "Let Christ's Freedom Ring" and pay tribute to the 50th anniversary of the SBC's Cooperative Program unified budget.

The agenda, released by committee on order of business chairman, Searcy S. Garrison, begins Tuesday morning and concludes Thursday night at the Miami Beach Convention Center. Garrison is executive secretary-treasurer of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

More than 16,000 persons from across the nation are expected to attend annual sessions of the nation's largest Protestant-evangelical denomination, which has more than 12.3 million members in 50 states. A record 18,190 "messengers" registered last year in Dallas.

Featured program personnel will include Jerry Clower, a comedian and Grand Ole Opry star from Yazoo City, Miss., who will address the convention on Thursday morning; Singer Anita Bryant of Miami; SBC President Jaroy Weber, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Tex., who will deliver the presidential address; Jimmy R. Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex., who will preach the convention sermon; and W. A. Criswell, a former SBC president and pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, Tex., who will speak on "Winning America through the Church."

Eight spots have been reserved on the program for theme interpretation, including an opening presentation on Tuesday morning by the SBC's Home and Foreign Mission Boards and Historical Commission.

Speakers scheduled to interpret the theme are Angel Martinez, evangelist, Fort Smith, Ark.; James T. Draper, associate pastor, First Baptist Church, Dallas; Duke K. McCall, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville; James Schneider, pastor, Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, Groton, Conn.; Richard A. Jackson, pastor, North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.; William L. Sel, pastor, Wieuca Road Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga.; and Verlin C. Kruschwitz, pastor, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, Ky.;

A committee named in Dallas last year to study the SBC's Executive Committee and consider a name change for the denomination will report on Thursday evening. Chauncey R. Daley, editor of the Western Recorder, news publication of Kentucky Baptists, chairs the committee.

About six hours has been set aside for such business as election of officers, the report of the SBC Executive Committee, miscellaneous business, committee reports and reporting, receiving and acting on resolutions. Additional time is allotted for reports of SBC agencies.

Observance of the Cooperative Program's 50th anniversary will come in a Tuesday evening emphasis, including presentation of a torch carried across country by Royal Ambassador (RA) boys.

The boys, members of missions education chapters in SBC churches for boys in grades one through 12, will run the lit torch in relays from Memphis, site of the establishment of the Cooperative Program in 1925, to Miami Beach. The Memphis based SBC Brotherhood Commission sponsors RAs.

For the fourth consecutive year, William J. Reynolds, secretary of the church music department at the SBC Sunday School Board, will direct convention music. Assistant music director will be Paul Bobbitt, church music secretary for the Florida Baptist Convention.

Besides Anita Bryant, other special music includes the Florida Baptist Singing Men, directed by Bobbitt; Nettie Beth Weber of Lubbock, Tex.; the Missouri Music Men, Bob Wooley, director; massed choirs of Miami Baptist churches; Stetson University's choir, Robert Rich, director; Lanny Allen, minister of music, First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex.; the United Bahamas Choir, Nassau; Mrs. Anne Criswell Jackson, Dallas, Tex.; the New Directions, Jack Day, Miami, director; and Russell Newport, Springfield, Mo.

Although this will be the 118th annual session of the convention, the Southern Baptist Convention is in its 130th year, having been established in 1845.

S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE



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SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Miami Beach Convention Center

June 10-12, 1975

Theme: Let Christ's Freedom Ring

Tuesday Morning, June 10

- 9:15 Music for Inspiration--Florida Baptist Singing Men, Paul Bobbitt, Jacksonville, Florida, director
9:30 Call to Order
9:35 Congregational Singing--William J. Reynolds, Nashville, director
9:40 Report of Registration and Constituting of Convention--W. Fred Kendall, Nashville, Tennessee
9:45 Report of Committee on Order of Business--Searcy S. Garrison, Atlanta, Georgia
9:55 Recognition of Fraternal Messengers
10:05 Introduction of Mayor of Metro Dade County--Harold C. Bennett, Jacksonville, executive secretary, Florida Baptist Convention
Welcome Message--Stephen P. Clark, Mayor of Metro Dade County
10:15 Announcement of Committee on Committees,
Committee on Resolutions,
Committee of Tellers
10:20 "Let Christ's Freedom Ring"
Presentation of Liberty Bell--Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Historical Commission
Solo--Nettie Beth Weber, Lubbock, Texas
10:25 Presidential Address--Jaroy Weber, Lubbock, Texas
11:00 Congregational Singing
11:05 Executive Committee Report (first section)
11:55 Miscellaneous Business
12:15 Introduction of Resolutions
12:35 Benediction--Richard M. Stephenson, Richmond, executive secretary, Baptist General Association of Virginia

Tuesday Afternoon, June 10

- 2:15 Music for Inspiration--Missouri Music Men, Bob Woolley, Jefferson City, Missouri, director
2:30 Congregational Singing--Paul Bobbitt, assistant convention music director
2:35 "Let Christ's Freedom Ring through Church Ministry"--James T. Draper, associate pastor, First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas
2:50 Election of Officers
3:05 Radio and Television Commission Report
3:15 Southern Baptist Convention Seminaries Report--W. Randall Lolley, President, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.
3:45 Congregational Singing
3:50 Executive Committee Report (final section)
4:05 Introduction of Resolutions
4:15 Election of Officers
4:25 Miscellaneous Business
4:35 Benediction--Padgett C. Cope, pastor, First Baptist Church, Indianapolis, Indiana

Tuesday Evening, June 10

- 6:45 Music for Inspiration--Massed Choirs from Miami Baptist Churches, Paul Bobbitt, director
7:00 Congregational Singing--Ron Lowry, Minister of Music, First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas

- 7:05 "Let Christ's Freedom Ring through Denominational Involvement"--Duke K. McCall, president, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky
- 7:20 Cooperative Program Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration
Presentation of Torch from Memphis--St wardship Commission, Brotherhood Commission
Commitment of State Conventions
- 8:30 Congregational Singing
Special Music
- 8:40 Report of Committee Named to
Study Executive Committee Function and
Change in Name of Convention--Chauncey R. Daley, editor, Western Recorder, Middle-
town, Kentucky, chairman
- 9:30 Miscellaneous Business
- 9:45 Benediction--W. Ches Smith, III, pastor, First Baptist Church, Tifton, Georgia

Wednesday Morning, June 11

- 9:15 Music for Inspiration--Stetson University Choir, Robert Rich, director
- 9:30 Congregational Singing--Ken Osbrink, minister of music, Central Baptist Church, Miami, Florida, director
- 9:35 "Let Christ's Freedom Ring through Personal Evangelism"--James Schneider, pastor, Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, Groton, Connecticut
- 9:50 Election of Officers
- 10:00 Committee on Resolutions (first report)
- 10:30 Committee on Committees Report
Committee on Boards Report
- 10:35 Stewardship Commission Report
- 10:45 Christian Life Commission Report
- 10:55 Congregational Singing
- 11:00 Special Music--Lanny Allen, minister of music, First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas
- 11:05 Convention Sermon--Jimmy R. Allen, pastor, First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas
Alternate--Paul S. James, retiring executive secretary, Baptist Convention of New York, Syracuse, New York
- 11:40 Miscellaneous Business
(Consideration of constitutional changes and other matters)
Election of Officers
- 12:30 Benediction--J. Thurmond George, pastor, Foxworthy Southern Baptist Church, San Jose, California

(No afternoon session)

Wednesday Evening, June 11

- 6:45 Music for Inspiration--United Bahamas Choir, Nassau
- 7:00 Congregational Singing--Paul C. McCommon, Atlanta, Georgia, director
- 7:05 "Let Christ's Freedom Ring through Church Outreach"--Richard A. Jackson, pastor, North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Arizona
- 7:20 Special Committee on Baptist State Papers
- 7:30 "Winning America to Christ"--Brotherhood Commission
- 7:50 Congregational Singing
- 7:55 "What Boards Intend To Do to Win America to Christ"--Home Mission Board
- 8:55 Special Music--Anita Bryant, Miami, Florida
- 9:15 Benediction--Alton H. McEachern, pastor, First Baptist Church, Greensboro, North Carolina

Thursday Morning, June 12

- 9:15 Music for Inspiration--United Bahamas Choir
- 9:30 Congregational Singing--Felix Snipes, Atlanta, Georgia, director
- 9:35 "Let Christ's Freedom Ring through Community Involvement"--William L. Self, pastor
Wieuca Road Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia
- 9:50 Sunday School Board Report
- 10:40 Committee on Resolutions Report (final)
- 10:55 Denominational Calendar Report
- 11:00 Annuity Board Report
- 11:15 Miscellaneous Business
- 11:30 Congregational Singing

- 11:35 Message--Jerry Clower, Yazoo City, Mississippi
12:00 Benediction--Henry D. Johns, pastor, Versailles, Kentucky

Thursday Afternoon, June 12

- 2:15 Music for Inspiration--Evangelistic Singers Concert
2:30 Congregational Singing--Forrest Heeren, Louisville, Kentucky, director
2:35 "Let Christ's Freedom Ring through Mission Action and Giving"--Verlin C. Kruschwitz,
pastor, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, Kentucky
2:50 Historical Commission Report
3:00 Southern Baptist Foundation Report
3:10 Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs Report
3:20 American Bible Society
3:30 Congregational Singing
3:35 Special Music--Mrs. Anne Criswell Jackson, Dallas, Texas
3:40 "Winning America through the Church"--W. A. Criswell, pastor, First Baptist Church,
Dallas, Texas
4:10 Baptist World Alliance
4:20 Committee on American Baptist Theological Seminary
4:25 Education Commission Report
4:30 Benediction--Robert L. Bateman, pastor, Lane Avenue Baptist Church, Columbus, Ohio

Thursday Evening, June 12

- 6:45 Music for Inspiration--The New Directions, Jack Day, Miami, director
7:00 Congregational Singing--Directed by William J. Reynolds
7:05 "Let Christ's Freedom Ring through Mass Evangelism"--Angel Martinez, evangelist,
Fort Smith, Arkansas
7:20 Special Music--Russell Newport, Springfield, Missouri
7:40 Woman's Missionary Union Report
8:00 Congregational Singing
8:05 Worldwide Thrust, "Let the Fire Fall"--Foreign Mission Board
9:05 Presentation of Officers
9:15 Benediction--Henry A. Parker, pastor, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Florida

Convention Officers

- Jaroy Weber, president, pastor, First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas
Stewart B. Simms, first vice president, pastor, First Baptist Church, Greer, S. C.
Charles N. King, second vice president, pastor, Corinthian Baptist Church, Frankfort, Ky.
Clifton J. Allen, recording secretary, retired, Winston-Salem, N. C.
W. Frederick Kendall, registration secretary, retired, Nashville, Tenn.
Porter W. Routh, treasurer, Nashville, Tenn.
W. C. Fields, press representative, Nashville, Tenn.
William J. Reynolds, music director, Nashville, Tenn.

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January 13, 1975

75-06

**Tornado Kills Baptist,
Destroys Church Building**

MCCOMB, Miss. (BP)--Baptists and other citizens of this storm-ravaged city began to survey damage and clean up immediately in the wake of a tornado that ripped a path of death and destruction through Pike and Macon Counties.

One Baptist was among eight persons known dead, four of them in McComb, as the tornado struck, leaving schools, homes, businesses and churches in ruins. Dead is Herbert Savell, a layman and member of Ruth Baptist Church in Macon County.

Savell, the father of three sons who are all Baptist ministers, was killed when his home was demolished in the tornado, reports said.

Extent of damage from tornadoes that hit portions of the Southeast states, along with ice and snow that plagued the Southeast and Texas and Arkansas, was not known for sure. Early indications, though, were that little damage had been done to Baptist facilities in areas other than the two stricken Mississippi counties.

Hardest hit was the city of McComb.

Don McGregor, associate editor of the Baptist Record, weekly news publication of Mississippi Baptists, toured the stricken area and reported on damage to Baptist work.

Completely destroyed was the West McComb Baptist Church, although the building's walls were left standing. Wayne Sterling, the pastor, could not be reached for comment. Downed telephone lines were a problem in the stricken area, McGregor noted.

In another part of the city, North McComb Baptist Church lost much of its roof, and the heavy rains that followed the tornado did a "great deal of damage" to furnishings, including the pews and organ. Joe H. Ratcliff, the pastor, told McGregor he thought these items could be salvaged if they could be refinished.

Ratcliff said his residence sustained roof and window damage and furnishings were wet, but it was still "livable." Seven members of the church lost their homes and those who could not live in their own homes were staying with other church members.

Also reporting slight damage was First Baptist Church, McComb. J. B. Fowler Jr., the pastor, was visiting a church member at a hospital when he looked out a third floor window and saw the tornado approaching.

"I looked right down its throat," Fowler said, "and it didn't have pretty tonsils."

Fowler said he thought the tornado, which destroyed 80 homes in the city, would hit the hospital. But the storm followed a depression in the earth and veered just past the hospital, demolishing a shopping center about two blocks away.

The tornado passed within a block of the church, Fowler said. The hospital lost its principal power source but sustained no other damage, Fowler noted.

First Baptist's pastor emeritus, Wyatt Hunter, and his wife were in their home in the tornado's path and were not injured, although the house was a total loss, said Fowler. The Hunter's have since moved into an apartment.

Over in the shopping center, First Baptist deacon, Carl Haskins, a co-owner of the center, rode out the storm lying flat on the floor of the vault in his office.

Another Baptist layman, Drubbs Traylor, owner of the Rose Drug Store in the shopping center and a Sunday School teacher at First Baptist, was covered by falling debris when a wall of his drug store caved in. He was not injured.

The tornado left the First Baptist parsonage without electric power and the roof was heavily damaged.

Four of the eight reported fatalities were residents of McComb. None of the McComb dead were Baptist, according to early reports.

Miraculously, no school children were reported killed in Macon or Pike County schools, although reports said three schools were destroyed or heavily damaged. Advance warning of "only a few minutes" enabled school authorities to utilize tornado drills that "spared lives, although there were some injuries," witnesses said.

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In addition to homes destroyed in the city, which has a high Baptist population, another 99 homes suffered major damage, reports indicated. Another 91 homes were said to have sustained slight damage.

Harold Flemming, education director for First Baptist Church, said estimates of damage in McComb indicated total losses would approach \$80 million for the city.

"Structural damage alone was judged to be \$18 million, and this doesn't include furnishings, merchandise and other contents" for the city, Flemming said.

First Baptist Church was used as a Red Cross Center for storm refugees.

It was estimated that more than 1,000 persons who lost their homes in the storm were unable to live in the damaged structures. Some 119 persons were admitted to the McComb hospital, reports said.

"It just makes you sick," said Fowler, who has been through a tornado tragedy before. He was a pastor in Lubbock, Tex., when a similar storm ripped through that city

"I've had my share. But the downpour of rain had no more than stopped when the McComb people were out with their saws cleaning up." Freezing temperatures added to the city's discomfort.

By Saturday, the day following the storm, one-way lanes had been cleared through the streets. National guardsmen and highway patrolmen were at most intersections to check on those entering the area.

This was also the second tornado for Haskins.

He and his co-owner partner, Tom MacGruder, were previous owners of a Laurel, Miss., shopping center that was destroyed several years ago.

(BP)

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JAN 14 1975